

○ AMERICA!

Words by
ALICE STONE BLACKWELL
AND K. PROFF-KALFAIAN

(Patriotic Song)

Music by
K. PROFF-KALFAIAN

Tempo di Marcia

2 The glad beams of thy aureole
Make blind the eyes that envy thee;
Thou reignest and shalt reign for aye,
O mighty country of the free!

PROFF-KALFAIAN

Composer of Music

(Biographical Notes)

Krikor Proff-Kalfaian was born on December 22, 1873, in Broussa, Asia-Minor, the son of an architect. His primary schooling was obtained in the Armenian school of his native city. He received his secondary education at the Ecole Centrale Armenienne of Galata, Constantinople. His artistic and musical studies were carried on in Paris, France.

Proff-Kalfaian was very fortunate in having as his chief master, Vincent d'Indy, internationally famous French composer of music. D'Indy highly praised Krikor's talent and looked upon him and guided him with fatherly care.

He has lectured in Paris France and Manchester, England, on Armenian Music, and he has published many articles on the same subject.

In 1905, in Paris, he published a Magazine—“**Groung, Revue Artistique Armenienne**”—in two Languages: **Armenian and French.**

In 1907 Proff-Kalfaian was admitted, as a member composer, into the “**Societe des Auteurs, Compositeurs et Editeurs de Musique**” of Paris.

His Musical creations include more than 150 numbers, mostly religious and patriotic and now he has devoted himself to Armenian Church music.

The most important and most remarkable musical work of Proff-Kalfaian is a “Messe Armenienne,” a work of considerable length with solos and choruses for four voices with pipe organ accompaniment.

He is also the composer of a “**Hymn Ottoman**” entitled “**Liberty**,” which was played everywhere in France, in 1910, in honor of the Ottoman Delegation of one hundred members, half military and half civil. This composition was selected as the best among many others of a like nature by the Official Committee of the French Government for the reception of the Ottoman Delegation.

On April 4, 1911, Proff-Kalfaian gave his first concert devoted entirely to his own musical works, in the School of Cantorum in Paris, France.

In 1912 he was solicited by the Ottoman Ambassador to Paris, Rifaat Pasha, to assume the Directorship of a Conservatory of Music which the Ottoman government was planning to establish in Constantinople. The Balkan Wars, however, prevented the realization of this project.

Proff-Kalfaian first set foot on American soil on March 22, 1913, in New York. On June 29, 1922, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States in Fresno, California. On that occasion he published a patriotic march, “**O America!**” which he composed during the period of the World War.

In the United States he has been Music Master of the Armenian Churches of Worcester, Boston and Lowell, Mass., and of Fresno, California.

Proff-Kalfaian has published over a dozen of his Armenian songs and another dozen of his Armenian songs are reproduced on phonograph records. Several also have been published in Armenian, French and English periodicals.

He has also given concerts in New York City, in Boston, Worcester and Lowell, Mass., and in Fresno, San Francisco and Los Angeles, California.

In 1918, while in Boston, Mass., Proff-Kalfaian was invited by the Board of Trustees of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Fresno, Calif., to assume the position of Music Master of that Church. On April 4, 1918, he arrived in Fresno and took charge of this position.

So pleased has he been with the charming little city of Fresno that he has established himself there ever since.